



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 141

January Session, 2001

***AN ACT CONCERNING MAIL-IN VOTER REGISTRATION
PROCEDURES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 9-19h of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (b) In addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section,
4 the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, not later than January 1, 1994,
5 shall include an application for the admission of an elector with each
6 application form provided for a motor vehicle operator's license and a
7 motor vehicle operator's license renewal, which are issued under
8 subpart (B) of part III of chapter 246, and with each application form
9 provided for an identity card issued under section 1-1h. Such
10 application form for the admission of an elector (1) shall be subject to
11 the approval of the Secretary of the State, (2) shall not include any
12 provisions for the witnessing of the application, and (3) shall contain a
13 statement that (A) specifies each eligibility requirement, (B) contains
14 an attestation that the applicant meets each such requirement, and (C)
15 requires the signature of the applicant under penalty of perjury. On
16 and after January 1, 1994, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall
17 accept in person any such completed application for admission. The
18 applicant shall state on such form, under penalty of perjury, [his] the
19 applicant's name, bona fide residence address, date of birth, whether
20 [he] the applicant is a United States citizen, party enrollment, if any,

21 prior voting address, if registered previously, and that [his] the
22 applicant's privileges as an elector are not forfeited by reason of
23 conviction of a felony. No Social Security number on any such
24 application form for the admission of an elector filed prior to January
25 1, 2000, may be disclosed to the public or to any governmental agency.
26 The commissioner shall indicate on each such form the date of receipt
27 of such application to ensure that any eligible applicant is registered to
28 vote in an election if it is received by the Commissioner of Motor
29 Vehicles by the last day for registration to vote in an election. The
30 commissioner shall give the applicant an application receipt, on a form
31 approved by the Secretary of the State and on which the commissioner
32 shall record the date that the commissioner received the application,
33 and forthwith transmit the application to the registrars of voters of the
34 applicant's town of residence. If a registration application is accepted
35 within five days before the last day for registration to vote in a regular
36 election, the application shall be transmitted to the registrars of voters
37 of the town of voting residence of the applicant not later than five days
38 after the date of acceptance. The procedures in subsections (c), (d), (f)
39 and (g) of section 9-23g, as amended by this act, which are not
40 inconsistent with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-
41 31, as amended from time to time, shall apply to applications made
42 under this section. The commissioner is not an admitting official and
43 may not restore, under the provisions of section 9-46a, electoral
44 privileges of persons convicted of a felony. Not later than January 15,
45 1993, the commissioner and secretary shall submit a report to the
46 General Assembly concerning the status of the implementation of the
47 provisions of this subsection, including an estimate of the cost of such
48 implementation.

49 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 9-23g of the general statutes is
50 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

51 (b) The Secretary of the State shall prescribe, and provide to
52 registrars of voters, town clerks and voter registration agencies, as
53 defined in section 9-23n, as amended by this act, application forms and
54 other materials necessary to complete such application and admission

55 process. The Secretary of the State, registrars of voters and town clerks
56 shall provide a reasonable number of such forms and materials to any
57 elector who requests such forms and materials. The secretary shall
58 also, in the course of [his] the secretary's elections duties, prepare
59 instructions and related materials describing procedures for such
60 application and admission process and shall provide the materials to
61 registrars of voters and town clerks. The application shall contain the
62 information required under section 9-23h, as amended by this act. All
63 statements of the applicant shall be made under the penalties of
64 perjury. The application for admission as an elector shall include a
65 statement that (1) specifies each eligibility requirement, (2) contains an
66 attestation that the application meets each such requirement, and (3)
67 requires the signature of the applicant under penalty of perjury.
68 Nothing in this section or section 9-23h, as amended by this act, shall
69 require that the application be executed in the state. An applicant who
70 is unable to write may cause [his] the applicant's name to be signed on
71 the application form by an authorized agent who shall, in the space
72 provided for the signature, write the name of the applicant followed
73 by the word "by" and [his] the agent's own signature. The completed
74 application may be mailed or returned in person to the office of the
75 registrars of voters or the office of the town clerk of the applicant's
76 town of residence or a voter registration agency. If the applicant
77 entrusts [his] the applicant's application to another person or to such a
78 voter registration agency for mailing or return to the registrars of
79 voters, such person or agency shall immediately mail or return the
80 application. Any such voter registration agency shall also give the
81 applicant an application receipt, on which the agency shall record the
82 date that the agency received the application. The town clerk shall
83 promptly forward any application which [he] the town clerk receives
84 to the registrars of voters. Such application form shall be provided by
85 or authorized by the Secretary of the State.

86 Sec. 3. Subsection (d) of section 9-23g of the general statutes is
87 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

88 (d) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the

89 privileges of an elector for any applicant for admission under this
90 section and section 9-23h, as amended by this act, shall attach
91 immediately upon approval by the registrar, and the registrars shall
92 enter the name of the elector on the registry list.

93 (2) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, if a
94 mailed application is postmarked, or if a delivered application is
95 received in the office of the registrars of voters, after the fourteenth day
96 before an election or after the fifth day before a primary, the privileges
97 of an elector shall not attach until the day after such election or
98 primary, as the case may be.

99 (3) If an application is received after the fourteenth day before an
100 election or after the fifth day before a primary by the Commissioner of
101 Motor Vehicles or by a voter registration agency, the privileges of an
102 elector shall not attach until the day after the election or primary, as
103 the case may be, or on the day the registrar approves it, whichever is
104 later.

105 (4) If on the day of an election or primary, the name of an applicant
106 does not appear on the official check list, such applicant may present
107 to the moderator at the polls either a notice of acceptance received
108 through the mail [to the moderator at the polls, after which] or an
109 application receipt that was previously provided to the applicant
110 pursuant to section 9-19e, subsection (b) of section 9-19h, as amended
111 by this act, subsection (b) of this section, as amended by this act, or
112 section 9-23n, as amended by this act. If an applicant presents said
113 notice or receipt, and either the registrars of voters find the original
114 application or the applicant submits a new application at the polls, the
115 registrar, or assistant registrar [,] upon notice to and approval by the
116 registrar, shall add such person's name and address to the official
117 check list on such day and the person shall be allowed to vote if
118 otherwise eligible to vote and the person presents to the checkers at the
119 polling place a preprinted form of identification pursuant to
120 subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 9-261.

121 Sec. 4. Section 9-23n of the general statutes is repealed and the
122 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

123 (a) As used in this section, "voter registration agency" means (1)
124 public assistance offices, (2) all offices in the state that provide
125 state-funded programs primarily engaged in providing services to
126 persons with disabilities, (3) libraries that are open to the public, and
127 (4) such other appropriate offices as the Secretary of the State shall
128 designate in accordance with the National Voter Registration Act of
129 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time.

130 (b) Voter registration agencies shall (1) distribute mail voter
131 registration application forms, (2) assist applicants for such assistance
132 or services in completing voter registration application forms, except
133 for applicants who refuse such assistance, [and] (3) accept completed
134 voter registration application forms and [forthwith transmit such
135 forms] give each applicant an application receipt, on which the agency
136 shall record the date that the agency received the application, and (4)
137 immediately transmit all such applications to the registrars of voters of
138 the town of voting residence of the applicants. If a registration
139 application is accepted within five days before the last day for
140 registration to vote in a regular election, the application shall be
141 transmitted to the registrars of voters of the town of voting residence
142 of the applicant not later than five days after the date of acceptance.
143 The voter registration agency shall indicate on the completed mail
144 voter registration application form, without indicating the identity of
145 the voter registration agency, the date of its acceptance by such agency,
146 to ensure that any eligible applicant is registered to vote in an election
147 if it is received by the registration agency by the last day for
148 registration to vote in an election. If a state-funded program primarily
149 engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities provides
150 services to a person with a disability at the person's home, the agency
151 shall provide such voter registration services at the person's home. The
152 procedures in subsections (c), (d), (f) and (g) of section 9-23g, as
153 amended by this act, that are not inconsistent with the National Voter
154 Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time,

155 shall apply to applications made under this section. Officials and
 156 employees of such voter registration agencies are not admitting
 157 officials, as defined in section 9-17a, and may not restore, under the
 158 provisions of section 9-46a, electoral privileges of persons convicted of
 159 a felony.

160 Sec. 5. Section 9-23h of the general statutes is repealed and the
 161 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

162 The application provided for in section 9-23g, as amended by this
 163 act, shall provide spaces for the following information for each
 164 applicant: (1) Name, (2) bona fide residence, including street number,
 165 street address, apartment number if applicable, town and zip code, (3)
 166 telephone number, (4) date of birth, (5) whether the applicant is
 167 registered as an elector in any other town in the state of Connecticut or
 168 in any other state, and if so, the applicant's last previous voting
 169 residence, (6) whether [he] the applicant is a United States citizen, (7)
 170 party affiliation, if any, and (8) the applicant's signature and date of
 171 signature. The spaces for the applicant's telephone number and party
 172 affiliation shall indicate that such information does not have to be
 173 provided. No Social Security number on any such form filed prior to
 174 January 1, 2000, may be disclosed to the public or to any governmental
 175 agency. The application shall contain a notice that if the applicant does
 176 not receive a notice of acceptance or rejection of the application from
 177 the office of the registrars of voters for the municipality in which the
 178 applicant resides, the applicant should contact said office. The
 179 application shall also contain any other information, questions or
 180 instructions prescribed by the Secretary of the State.

181 Sec. 6. This act shall take effect January 1, 2002.

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